
ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 6

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Saturday, November 5, 1988

New Haven Coliseum

New Haven, CT

and

Sunday, November 6, 1988

Springfield Civic Center

Springfield, MA

Welcome to "Arena Report" and it's first double shot issue. As you can see from above, this issue will cover two cards I attended on back to back days. (Yeah, so my wife Cheryl wants to shoot me for being obsessive with wrestling.) I tell her I need to justify my U.A.W.F. award or Jon Gallagher will take it back. The same crew is working both cards with only three matches the same. In all honesty if they were all the same I wouldn't have attended both. One note is that the New Haven card is Sat. afternoon. The crew then goes to Boston at night. (You'll find those results in the correspondent section.) The Springfield show is Sunday night and no doubt they're somewhere in the afternoon so the Springfield show is guarenteed to be a dog.

"Arena Report" comes out twice a month and is mailed a day or two after the show. I usually keep you abreast of when I'll be attending shows so you'll know when you can expect the next issue. The cost is 50¢ an issue and a number should appear on the top left hand corner of this page telling you how many issues you have left on your subscription. Even though this is a double issue, it only counts as one on your subscription.

All renewals, match results, and letters are to be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT. 06066. Let's go* New Haven and the first half of the doubleheader.

Opening Match

Lanny Poffo beat Barry Horowitz in 11:22. Barry made this watchable. Horowitz reversed a whip into the corner but as he charged in, Lanny used a sunset flip for the pin. *

2nd Match

Ted DiBiase pinned Hercules in a heated 7:14. Best match of the day. The heat was great and both worked hard. I've been a closet Herc fan for a while. I always enjoyed his bouts with Billy Jack Haynes. Ted did some mic work before Herc got to the ring. Hercules then charged in and it was seven plus minutes of a brawl. Ending saw a ref bump and then Herc put Ted up in a backbreaker. Virgil then came off the top rope and nailed the Hercster allowing DiBiase to make the pin. This feud is surprisingly over with the fans. (In New Haven anyway) *** $\frac{1}{2}$

W.W.F. Woman's Championship

Sensational Sherri retained her title pinning Rockin' Robin in 8:27. They've relegated the ladies to doing a midget comedy act. What's the matter, can't they find any midgets. What about the ones Fritz used, Macho Midget & Million Dollar Baby? End came as Sherri used tights for a roll up. *

4th Match

Terry Taylor over Ken Patera in a dud at 8:43. First Four minutes were stalling. Why don't Terry pack his bags and go to the N.W.A. and take Curt Hennig with him. Granted Patera can't work but I really haven't seen Taylor in one decent match yet. Hard to believe he's the same wrestler. (Oh, but he's not. He's the limited talent Red Rooster.) Taylor was on the ring apron and Ken picked him up to slam him when Terry reversed it and pinned him.

5th Match

Dino Bravo beat Hacksaw Duggan via count-out in 11:03. Boy was this a yawner. I would have given it negative stars but Hack hit Frenchy with the 2x4 after the match to bring it back up to a dud. Duggan was counted out while chasing Frenchy.

Tag Team Match

Fabulous Rougeau Brothers beat The Hart Foundation in a long 17:53. This was disgraceful. First lock up at 5:00. When they finally did lock up I wish they hadn't. I don't expect this from these two teams and if they do it tomorrow night too I'll be pissed. (Why do I think I'll be pissed again tomorrow?) As the match broke down, Bret gave Raymond a piledriver but Jacques came off the top rope and slammed the Hit Man who was then pinned. The only entertaining thing about this match was when the Fabs were introduced they said they were going to make their home in New Haven, CT. Funny stuff. Too bad, it's still a dud.

7th Match

Bad News Brown rocked Jim Brunzell with the enzuigiri in 5:54. The fourth dud of the night. A record for me. You may ask why I bother coming if I don't enjoy it. The sad truth is I enjoy it anyway. Then again, you may not give a s _ _ _ _.

W.W.F. Heavyweight Championship

Randy Savage retained his title by pinning King Haku with the flying elbow in 7:53. Not that hot. Haku had most of the offensive. Hmmm, I wonder why Pat Patterson made Haku number one contender. Typical Savage ending. * $\frac{1}{2}$

New Haven Notes

The attendance was 7,100. The largest crowd they've had all year. I'm sure the afternoon show plus the fact the weather was miserable helped the walk up.... They had a group of Boy Scouts here today and at intermission they picked two names out and had the kids go meet the wrestlers. Great P.R. stuff. Are you listening Mr. Turner?.... They advertised something called the WWF Showcase which will be going up in a mall in Milford, CT for the Xmas season. Basically it'll be a booth to sell their merchandise. They'll clean

up.... They announced the next Hartford show which will be 11/25. The day after Survivors which probably means they won't be in the mood to work. Then again, when are they? The line up is: Hogan-Bossman, Virgil-Hercules, Demolition-Powers of Pain, Valentine-Santana, Hennig-Roma, Akeem, and Volkoff also announced....

Now lets move onto Springfield and I'll try not to be so negative.

Opening Match

Terry Taylor over Ken Patera in 10:13. Better than New Haven. Actually, most of the bouts were better and I'll explain why later. Patera charged the corner, Terry kneed him in the chest and pinned him. * $\frac{1}{2}$

2nd Match

King Haku beat Jim Brunzell in 10:37. A few missed moves. One being a botched back body drop which had the two of them laughing. Brunzell went for a piledriver, Haku flipped him over but Jim held on for a sunset flip but Haku chopped him in the throat and sat on him for the pin. * $\frac{1}{2}$

Return Tag Team Match

Hart Foundation defeated The Fabulous Rougeaus via dq. in 15:27. Jacques wanted to shake Bret's hand at the beginning and when Bret refused Jacques asked him where his sportsmanship was. End saw the Harts set up Jacques for the slingshot but Ray pushed the ref in the way for the dq. Still not good. *

W.W.F. Woman's Championship

Sensational Sherri retained her title pinning Rockin Robin in 13:03. Alot more action than yesterday. Not as much clowning either. It also had the same finish. **

Main Event: Non-Title Match

Bad News Brown beat Randy Savage on a count out in 11:01. Savage again on the defensive for most of the match. They were fighting outside the ring when Randy went to whip Brown into the post but Bad News reversed it and Randy was counted out. I can't see why this was non title since Savage wasn't pinned. I guess they'll save this rematch for later after the Brother Love segment airs. Bad match. *

6th Match

Brutus Beefcake beat Ron Bass with a flying bodypress at 13:42. Horrible. After the pin, Bass started choking Bruti with the whip until The Foundation made the save. For that it gets $\frac{1}{2}$ *.

7th Match

Lanny Poffo beat Barry Horowitz in 8:17. Same finish as New Haven with a sunset flip in the corner. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

Final Match

Ted DiBiase beat Hercules in 12:21. A different match than yesterday and not as good although still decent. A surprise ending as Virgil pulled something out of his trunks and hit Herc setting up the pin. The reason for the surprise was that I didn't expect it to end like that. **

Springfield Notes

Attendance was 3,100 which is their typical crowd here... I mentioned at the beginning of the Springfield report that the matches were more enjoyable than New Haven. There are a lot of variables to consider when watching a match. In New Haven, I went alone and sat in the lower arena in the corner. In Springfield I had second row and went with my two future brother-in-laws and it was a lot more fun. A couple of the bouts were probably exactly the same as N.H. but they seemed better because of the different surroundings. My two friends are very casual fans. They know it's a work but they would be lucky to name ten wrestlers if you asked them. But this shows that even a casual fan can pick things up. After the show one of them said you could tell which wrestlers knew what they were doing and which had no clue. Enough said. I was going to get into the smart-mark debate but forget it.... They return 12/4 with this line-up: Savage-Akeem, Rougeaus-Harts w/ Brother Love as ref, Bass-Beefcake, Demolition-Powers of Pain, Taylor and Haku also announced. I'll be attending with Dan Reilly and Fan of the Year Tom Burke. You could say we are dragging Tom as he hasn't been to a WWF show in a while. He really does not care for them in the least. But he wanted me and Dan to stop by his place before the show so those were the conditions. I've been to Tom's house before and if you want to see memorabilia, he's got it all including Pedro Morales's championship belt which Tom purchased at a hock shop. I've always been amazed with that story.

Ramblings

I attended the Friday matinee of "They Live" starring Roddy Piper. There were 19 people in attendance and the gate was \$57. The first 20 minutes were very slow and then Piper put his working shoes on. It was a combination shoot 'em up/horror story. The fight scene with Piper and co-star Keith David was too long and very unrealistic. I mean, have you ever seen someone use a belly to back suplex in a street fight? It was funny to see Piper throw his punches as he looked like he was in the ring, using the same style. Overall I gave the movie a C and it was much better than "Hell Comes To Frogtown" which I shut off after seeing the previews.... I'd like to congratulate John Lanigan who was recently appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission. Maybe now we'll get some law and order in this business. Ha Ha.... So far I've only seen one Tully and Arn match and it was a real good one against Houston and Casey from Prime Time. Hopefully they'll continue to work instead of slacking off but somehow I can't see that happening as this laziness disease spreads like wildfire. (Tommy Rich?).... I don't know about you but I am really looking forward to the A.W.A. pay per view show. Face it. It is something different for a change. Do you honestly think it could be worse than Summer Slam. Gee, Bill Kunkel will really enjoy this show but then again he doesn't like high spots so he'll wait for Survivors. Lex Luger and Sting gave a great interview on World Wide this weekend. It really had me pumped up. Too bad I'll probably never see any of their matches unless Turner decides to come up here before the end of the year which is negotiable big ben.... I've heard two stories on the Bulldogs. One saying they're already gone and one saying they're here until Survivors which comes from Mr. Meltzer. Gee, which one would you believe?

Correspondent Reports

Philadelphia Civic Center Philadelphia, PA October 15, 1988
Correspondent: Gary Fishman

1) Al Perez went to a fifteen minute draw with Ron Simmons. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ Good brawling. Best match Gary has seen Simmons in. 2) Larry Zbyszko beat Italien Stallion in a dud. 3) Kevin Sullivan pinned Eddie Gilbert after spiking "Hot Stuff" in the groin. (Shows there is no justice in wrestling when this result takes place.) Gilbert and Sullivan brawled up the aisle after Kevin went after Jimmy Garvin who was on crutches. ** $\frac{3}{4}$ 4) Road Warriors beat the Varsity Club via count out. This match was actually third on the card followed by Gilbert-Sullivan. (Sounds like a musical duo.) As Rotundo and Steiner were shoving each other, the Roadies clotheslined both of them over the top rope where they were counted out. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ 5) Russian Assassins beat The Kolloffs when #2 loaded his mask and headbutted Uncle Ivan. * $\frac{1}{4}$ 6) Barry Windham beat Sting via count out. They did the angle where Sting was announced as injured but then he ran in and attacked Barry. Match only went around ten minutes but was all great. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ 7) Midnight Express beat The Fantastics by pinfall. Sequence of moves in this match were amazing. **** 8) J.J. Dillon pinned Jim Cornette in a cage match. Gary gave it negative three stars but said it would have been -***** if not for the comedy. Dillon bladed.

Rapides Parish Coliseum Alexandria, LA October 30, 1988
Correspondent: Boogie Guillory

1) Fantastics & Ron Simmons beat Sheepherders & Rip Morgan when Simmons did an over the rope sunset flip on Morgan. B+ 2) Ivan Koloff pinned Russkie #2 when #1 interfered and as Victory was going to whip Ivan into Sheldon my Uncle reversed it and the russians collided setting up the pin. Why no d.q.? C- 3) Mike Rotunda beat Italian Stallion with a double arm suplex. Steiner was at ringside aggravating Mike as usual. After the match, Rick wouldn't give Rotunda his belt back until Mike grabbed it and ran back to the dressing room. C+ mainly for Steiner. 4) Eddie Gilbert beat Assassin #1 via outside interference from #2. Ivan made the save. Grade-C 5) Dr. Death beat Larry Z. with the stampede in a short bout. D+ 6) Barry Windham and Sting went to a double count out. They did the same angle as Philly. B+ (As you can tell by now, I do not have a plus key on my typewriter.) 7) Ric Flair & Al Perez were defeated by Lex Lugar & Nikita Koloff. Nikita and Lex double-clotheslined Perez for the win. A- 8) Road Warriors beat the Midnight Express when Animal pinned Eaton. Warriors had the world belts as they had won them the night before in New Orleans. B- Attendance- 2,793. Missy Hyatt was in the lobby signing autographs.

Boston Garden Boston, MA November 5, 1988
Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Terry Taylor over Ken Patera in 9:52. Terry reversed a power slam. 2) Jim Neidhart pinned Raymond Rougeau with a cradle in a heated 2:28. 3) Haku beat Jim Brunzell with a savate kick in 8:01. 4) Jacques Rougeau beat Bret Hart in 11:50. Raymond comes to ring-side to distract Bret and Jacques comes from behind and rolls Bret up.

Anvil comes to the ring and they have a good four way brawl that lasted a few minutes. 5) Dino Bravo beat Hacksaw Duggan on a count out in 8:45. Lots of heat. 6) Sherri over Robin in 9:35. See previous two reports. 7) Ted DiBiase beat Hercules with the same finish as New Haven where Virgil jumps off the top rope and hits Herc while he has Ted in the backbreaker. Time was 7:18. 8) Lanny Poffo over Barry Horowitz in 6:00. Again, same as other two cities. 9) Randy Savage beat Bad News Brown in a return match with the stip that should Savage lose on a count out he would lose the belt. Match went an uneventful 8:04. Brown went to slam Macho but Savage hung on and reversed it for the pin. Attendance was 6,500. They return 12/3 with Hogan-Bossman on top.

Final Notes

I hope everyone enjoyed this issue. I'd like to thank Gary, Boogie, Sharon Guillory, and Louie for their reports. Keep them coming. My next report will be from the Hartford Civic Center on 11/25. A lot going on that week with Survivors 11/24 and the second Sat. Nights main Event on 11/26. So there will be a lot to cover. That issue will be mailed out 11/28. Hope everyone has a nice Thanksgiving. Put a picture of Abdullah next to your plate so you don't eat too much!

See ya,

Ron